

# WOODRIVER FIRE & RESCUE and CITY OF HAILEY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE MITIGATION PLAN

## **Background**

The Blaine County Community at Risk encompasses an area of 2,660.57 square miles or 1,702,765.84 acres located in the mountainous central portion of Idaho. The State of Idaho owns approximately 4% of the county's overall land mass. All federal lands within the county are estimated to total 78%. Private lands total 450 square miles or approximately 18% of lands within Blaine County. Wood River Fire Protection District covers

The total net value of taxable property for the 2004 to 2005 Blaine County Budget is \$8,060,841,150. The population growth rate for Blaine County averages 3.65% per year relative to a total population that is currently estimated to be 21,000.<sup>1</sup> Private properties that are within and protected by a fire jurisdiction total 351.3 square miles or approximately 72% of Blaine County private lands. Blaine County fire agencies protect approximately 13% of the total land area in Blaine County.

The elevations within Blaine County range from the lowest elevation of 3,100 feet above sea level to the highest elevation of 11,900 feet above sea level. Most of the populated areas are located between 4,000 and 6,000 feet above sea level.

Vegetation types in Blaine County are predominantly sage brush steppe, coniferous forest stands including Douglas fir and Lodgepole pine, scattered aspen stands associated with conifer stands, and cottonwood, willow and alder riparian zones.

This fire mitigation plan and others in Blaine County are funded by a grant from the US Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management. Grants are provided specifically for Communities at Risk as designated in the Federal Register. This Fire Mitigation Plan covers the Bellevue Fire Department, the Carey Rural Fire Protection District, the Smiley Creek Rural Fire Protection District, West Magic Fire Protection District and the remaining areas of private property in Blaine County that are not protected by an organized fire protection agency. Two other Fire Mitigation Plans have been created concurrently with this Plan. They are the **Ketchum Rural Fire Mitigation Plan** and the **Blaine County Fire Mitigation Plan**. The City of Sun Valley Fire Department Fire Mitigation Plan was completed in 2002 as a test project with funding also provided by the Bureau of Land Management through the Communities at Risk program. Other fire mitigation plans that have been completed through funding under the Communities at Risk granting program are available for review at the National Fire Plan website: [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Statistics from the Blaine County Financial Report [www.co.blaine.id.us/blaine%20County%20Insertx.pdf](http://www.co.blaine.id.us/blaine%20County%20Insertx.pdf)

## **CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES**

### **Wood River Fire Protection District - Chief Bart Lassman and Assistant Chief Jeff Nevins**

The Wood River Fire Protection District provides fire protection to approximately 150 square miles of property in southern Blaine County. The boundaries of the District run roughly from the Greenhorn Bridge in the north to Baseline Road in the south excluding the cities of Hailey and Bellevue. See Alpine Enterprises Wood River Fire Protection District jurisdiction map for further details.

The area protected within the rural fire district consists of high value and moderate value residential properties in a *rural* environment (less than 400 persons per square mile). There are numerous agriculture uses and farmlands in the district.

The personnel of the district consist of 34 personnel operating out of three stations. Ten of the personnel are fulltime career employees. The department also provides Emergency Medical Services response and transport responsibilities to South Blaine County at the Paramedic Level.

The location of the Headquarters Station and Station 2 are located in the City of Hailey. Station 3 is located south of Bellevue on Highway 75 and is shared with the Bureau of Land Management Fire Resources.

The apparatus of the district includes two (2) Type I Structure Engines (one engine has CAFS), one (1) pumper / tender, one (1) Type 6 Wildland Engine, one (1) Water Tender T-3, one 75 foot aerial ladder (quint), three (3) ambulances, two (2) command units and one (1) Heavy Rescue, command/support vehicle/wildland engine T-6.

Wood River Fire Protection District has completed a 15 year Master Plan. The plan calls for additional station locations and apparatus to meet minimum fire flows for protected properties. The locations and equipment of facilities are yet to be determined using accepted practices and technology that are referenced in this document.

Chief Lassman has implemented a Wildland Firefighting Training Program that is currently being used to meet the objectives for all classes. The current classes are Awareness Level Essentials; Basic Level Firefighter Training 2 (FFT2); S-130, S-190; and Incident Command System (ICS); Advanced Level; S-131, S-230, S-231 and S-290; Incident Command (IC) Type 4/Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface; S-200, S-215.

All personnel have completed Awareness Level Essentials for wildland firefighting, 30 have completed Basic Level Fire Fighter Training 2 (FFT2), S-130, S-190 and the Incident Command System. Eleven firefighters have completed Advanced Level and Incident Commander (IC) Type 4 courses. Currently 13 personnel hold "Red Card" certification.

Firefighters are encouraged to attend classes presented by the Southeastern Idaho Cooperative to obtain certifications as desired. Classes will be scheduled by the South Central Idaho Cooperators (SCIC) in Bellevue. This was determined following a survey conducted of all Blaine County Cooperators. The survey noted that of all the students throughout the SCIC, the majority was located in Blaine County. This led to the establishment of classes within Blaine County.

Some noted obstacles to wildland training with the Cooperative are:

- The federal agencies audience is usually 18-20 year-old new firefighter trainees. The rural agencies structural firefighters are older, experienced and have already received training in

“Essentials of Firefighting” and “The Incident Command System”. There is a reluctance to revisit topics previously learned while participating in the co-op program. This is perceived to be an obstacle to higher education and certification of the structural forces.

- Wildland training is based on hours spent in the particular class. This does not give credit for previous fire training. There is a desire to have a competency-based program that allows experienced firefighters to reduce training time by building on previously learned concepts.
- There is currently no suitable training facility that meets the needs of federal and local agencies to cooperatively conduct wildland fire training for firefighters and fire managers in the Blaine County area. The local and federal agencies work together in initial attack and long campaign operations which would be enhanced by regularly training together.

There is the suggestion that the annual Urban Interface Drill between agencies be first conducted as a tabletop exercise with the incident command staff. This would allow greater opportunities for interagency cooperation prior to involving the many personnel and vehicle resources on the ground and in the air.

### **Areas of Primary Concern and Desired Outcomes of a Mitigation Plan**

- Improve Firefighter Safety through:
  - Adequate and documented training of all cooperators throughout the county
  - Establish standards for all mutual aid responders that assure competence on the fire ground and ability to accomplish the required tasks.
  - Create and maintain defensible spaces around structures in the Wildland/Urban Interface.
  - Provide all responders with National Fire Protection Association compliant wildland and structural Personal Protective Equipment.
- Develop accurate mapping for the district using digital format technologies
  - Provide accurate road and address mapping
  - Establish fuels mapping to generate low, moderate and high hazard areas in the Wildland/Urban Interface.
  - Enable the use of Mobile Data Terminals for accurate response
  - Inventory bridges.
  - Map water supply locations, hydrants, dry hydrants.
- Provide ideas for greater cooperation of fire agencies
  - Contracts for service
  - Dispatching of nearest responder
  - Cooperative master planning
  - Coordination of effort between agencies
  - Explore consolidation of services
  - Develop and maintain a countywide training facility
- Public Education to Reduce Life and Property Loss in the Urban Interface
  - Develop a parallel education program throughout the county.
  - Reduce public apathy and present a consistent Firewise message.
- Establish fire and building codes commensurate with the Interface and Intermix fire threat.
  - Establish adequate defensible spaces around structures.
  - Require roofing materials appropriate for the interface.
  - Consider codes to address the fire hazards associated with inadequate exterior construction requirements on buildings within the interface.
- Improve fire agency Interoperability between federal and local levels.
- Provide solutions to the limitations of the Emergency Communications system.
- Reduce fuel loading on both public and private lands in the Wildland/Urban Interface – show risks of a single species forest – Support Healthy Forest Initiatives.

- Help adapt fire services to Blaine Counties' growth using a more proactive approach.

#### **What would you like to see implemented regarding Public Fire Safety Education?**

- Implementation of a wildland/urban interface film "leader" presented at the local cinemas that encourage "Firewise" building and safety practices in the community. The fuels shown should reflect the local area silviculture.
- Develop a coalition between the fire agencies, planners, building officials, building contractors and architects to obtain a Firewise Community.
- Provide additional personnel to accomplish greater public fire safety awareness in the schools, throughout the community and to accomplish fires safety inspections.
- Direct an awareness level program to all facets of the community including absentee homeowners. Part-time residents challenge the ability of the fire agency to make fire prevention contacts. This is especially a problem in relation to use of fireworks, solid fuel burner fire safety and creation and maintenance of a Firewise landscape. A greater reliance on the public media to deliver the fire safety message is needed. At the time visitors are in the area a professional media fire safety message needs to be delivered. The message should be appropriate for the fire danger presented at the time. Winter is the time for solid fuel safety presentations along with smoke detector awareness. Spring would be appropriate for a Firewise landscape campaign. Summer can address open burning and the legality and safety of fireworks along with the approaching wild land fire threat.
- A Public Fire Education and Fire Media Coordinator would be a valuable person to have on staff to meet the needs of fire safety education delivery.
- A "Public Fire Safety Education Trailer" has proven to be a valuable tool in other communities in promoting fire education. The trailer can be stocked with materials, and hardware to make presentations at events where large groups congregate. Examples are:
  - Provide fire mitigation information and demonstrations in neighborhoods during the spring and summer.
  - Highlight fuel reduction demonstrations and provide information to consider home fuels modification.
  - Set up at events like gallery walks, Wagon Days, Fourth of July Parade and the Blaine County Fair to reach both the visitor and local population.
  - A Public Education Trailer could also be used at Fuels Reduction Events in neighborhoods to encourage greater participation and provide a central location for coordination of neighbors, contractors and fire agency personnel.
  - The trailer might be used at the base of Bald Mountain in the winter to promote solid fuel burner safety and show fuels reduction mitigation projects that were completed previously.

#### **Communications**

- Interoperability of communications of all agencies is in dire need of equipment and procedures to insure the safety of all responders and the public
- Agencies operate on different frequencies and in the short term a radio operational plan is being devised to help overcome some deficiencies in this area. (See attachment)
- Enhanced 911 is being implemented through a phone levy within Blaine County. The monies currently available do not meet the needs of the agencies to overcome the interoperability problem between police, fire, emergency medical services and the federal agencies. This will be compounded when the federal agencies meet the federal mandate to switch to narrow band digital technology by 2005<sup>1</sup>. Rural agencies currently possess wide band equipment.
- Radio coverage of the current frequencies is deficient in many areas as noted in the mapping analysis completed by Alpine Enterprises in 2004<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>National Wildland Coordinating Group, Meeting Minutes, Nov 14-15 2000, Boise, ID

<sup>2</sup> Alpine Enterprises Radio Coverage Overlay dated November 2003.

- Mobile Data Technology is not available for vehicle response to incidents, which would provide mapping, history of prior incidents and most importantly visual acknowledgement of the necessary response information such as address, situation status, water source location and any other responding units. This would greatly reduce the amount of radio traffic and insure acknowledgment of correct information.
- The current frequencies are set aside as National Fire Mutual Aid frequencies:
  - 154.265 (Red)
  - 154.280 (White)
  - 154.295 (Blue)

### **Current Code Analysis**

- Current adopted codes are the Blaine County Fire Protection Ordinance 02-04 and the Blaine County Building Code Ordinance 2004-2005.
- Current building codes do not take into consideration the impact of the Wildland/Urban Interface problem as it relates to exterior construction and the use of solid wood products for roofing materials.
- Buildings of 4,000 square feet or greater require a minimum water supply of 10,000 gallons (500 gallons per minute for 20 minutes) or approved fire sprinklers or an area separation wall.
- A minimum 30-foot clear zone is required as approved by the fire official.
- A Class “A” roof assembly required on structures exceeding 3,000 square feet. The code allows the use of solid wood products as roofing materials.
- The fire flow requirements of Appendix B of the International Fire Code are exempted from the Blaine County Fire Code. This results in lower fire flow requirements for structures in the county.
- The use of ponds and other similar static water sources for decoration and/or fire protection are contrary to the Blaine County Board of Commissioners water policy discouraging such uses.
- Blaine County is designated as a “Community at Risk” from wildfire in the list of such communities in the Federal Register.
- The current Blaine County Building Code does not address the issues of the threat of wildfire in the interface zone as it relates to exterior construction.
- Discussion with the fire and building code officials raised the issue of the lack of resources to adequately monitor and enforce code violations.
- Codes are not consistent throughout all jurisdictions in Blaine County.

### **Fireworks**

- Prohibit fireworks stands outside of city limits.
- Prohibit sales to minors.
- Education of fire and law enforcement personnel in the knowledge of fireworks laws.
- Consistent and vigilant enforcement of fireworks ordinances throughout the cities and county.
- All pyrotechnics displays to be by licensed operators with proper permitting.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Firefighters are required to be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that meets the National Fire Protection Agency Standard 1977. This includes a fire resistant shirt and pants, helmet, eye protection, leather gloves, eight-inch tall lace up leather boots and a fire shelter. It is recommended that each person have a backpack for personal equipment and at least 2 quarts of drinking water.

### Wildland Urban Interface Apparatus

TYPE	UNIT ID	MODEL	Class A Foam	CAFS	Tank	Pump
E-1	ENGINE 50	Pumper/Tender	Educted	No	2000	1250
E-1	ENGINE 51	Pumper	Injected	Yes	750	1250
E-1	ENGINE 52	Pumper	Educted	No	750	1250
WE-6	ENGINE 53	Wildland Engine	Injected	No	250	125
WT-3	TENDER 72	Tender	Educted	No	3000	500
WE-6	RESCUE 91	Wildland Engine	Educted	No	150	125

### Command Vehicles

Command		4x4 Chevrolet
Command		4x4 Ford F-250

### Other Apparatus

1-75' Aerial Ladder with 300 gallons of water and a 1500 gallon per minute pump.

3 -Paramedic Ambulances

### IDAHO SURVEY AND RATING BUREAU CLASSIFICATION

The Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau assigns fire protection classes to the Wood River Fire District for the purposes of establishing advisory insurance rates. Class 1 is the most favorable rate with Class 10 being unprotected.

#### In the Wood River Fire Protection District:

- Class 5 applies to all properties within five miles of a fire station and 1000 feet of an approved fire hydrant.
- Class 8 applies to all properties within 5 miles of a fire station.
- Class 9 applies to all properties within 10 miles of a fire station.
- Class 10 applies to all properties beyond 10 miles from a fire station.

The classification results are not a comprehensive review of all aspects of a public fire protection program and should not be used for purposes other than insurance pricing. Many factors concerning life and property safety need a more complete analysis to address the community fire problem. The survey does not differentiate between properties in an urban setting versus a Wildland/Urban Interface setting. However the individual insurance companies will likely attach a surcharge to insurance premiums for homes with a solid wood product roof.

The rating schedule does not differentiate between communities having 9-1-1 and Enhanced 9-1-1. Enhanced 9-1-1 improves life and property protection many times over by providing quick access to the location of the caller reporting the emergency. The rating system is silent also on the issue of interoperability of communications between all agencies, which is necessary for the large-scale conflagrations in the Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix. There are many other areas of fire protection not evaluated to the extent needed to give a community its life and property safety rating.

The schedule is a good indicator of many needs for fire protection. The Wood River Fire Protection District survey shows that fire district improvements having the most impact on lowering insurance rates would be:

1. Increase the number of available personnel.
2. Improve the distribution of apparatus throughout the district.
3. Training documentation.

Keep in mind the above improvements would impact insurance rates not necessarily life safety. The primary concern of Fire Districts is life safety and additional improvements are sometimes needed to meet the challenges of fire in that regard. Wildland/Urban Interface problems increase the need for specialized interface apparatus and trained personnel to combat fires in the initial stages. This helps prevent conflagrations and allows for orderly evacuation of people and the response of outside agencies. While the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau shows a shortage of “Engine Companies” in their survey, this shortage could be even more critical in a wildland fire that threatens a subdivision.

### **Possible considerations to reducing the deficiencies in Distribution, Number of Personnel and Training Documentation**

- A large concentration of apparatus and equipment is located in central Hailey where Wood River Fire Protection District and Hailey Fire Department maintain three fire stations. The two entities have different governing boards and different customers. Both suffer deficiencies in the above areas of distribution, number of personnel and the number of documented training hours.
- Relocation of fire stations and implementation of an automatic dispatch of “nearest responder” plan could reduce response times and increase safety of responders and citizens if jointly implemented in both jurisdictions and Bellevue.
- Joint training could reduce the administrative workload and reduce the number of instructors required at each training session while providing the instruction to more students.
- All entities have considered some type of consolidation in the past. Consolidation would have a synergistic effect on the personnel count of a single entity. An additional synergistic effect could be obtained by consolidation of apparatus at properly located stations to overcome the issue of company distribution. This would likely improve future cost avoidance for all entities and improve insurance rate classification for all.
- A consolidated area fire training center presents a cost saving alternative to attempting to provide facilities for each fire agency. A single facility would be able to put the savings into building a better facility for training. A partnership with federal, city and rural fire agencies would provide a location for all agencies to train in wildland and structural firefighting.

### **Fire and Building Codes and the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau**

Fire and building codes are not a part of the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau rating consideration. Code officials have a strong desire to improve fire and building codes to address the urban interface problem. They note many problems with the allowed roof coverings, exterior siding, minimal clear zones, minimal access requirements and the shortage of enforcement resources. Establishment of fuel mapping can possibly lead to the enactment of a “Wildland/Urban Interface Code” adopted by many other jurisdictions in the interface. Fire officials state that they would like to look at a program of permit fee reduction incentives for building a “Firewise” home. This reduction would apply to those items exceeding code requirements but consistent with the objectives of the Urban/Wildland Interface Code such as:

- Automatic fire sprinklers
- Non solid wood product roof assemblies
- Additional improvements to access beyond minimum code requirements
- Defensible space exceeding minimum code requirements

### **Fuels Reduction**

- See mapping provided by Alpine Enterprises Inc.
- Mitigation programs, citizen use of equipment to accomplish property fuel reduction.
- Contractor fuel reduction.
- Reduction of structure fuels by implementation of stringent codes and enforcement.

**Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan, Wood River Fire Protection District:**

Fire prevention and mitigation issues of greatest concern to the Wood River Fire Protection District include:

- Improve Firefighter Safety
- Develop accurate mapping for the district
- Provide ideas for greater cooperation of fire agencies
- Public Education to Reduce Life and Property Loss in the Urban Interface
- Establish fire and building codes commensurate with the Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix fire threat.
- Improve fire agency Interoperability between federal and local levels.
- Provide solutions to the limitations of the Emergency Communications system.
- Reduce fuel loading – Show risks of a single species forest – Support Healthy Forest Initiatives.
- Help adapt fire services to Blaine Counties' growth.
- Develop and maintain a countywide training facility



## CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES

### Hailey Fire Department - Fire Chief Mike Chapman

The department protects the City of Hailey consisting of commercial and residential properties in a *suburban* environment (400-2000 persons per square mile) with a wildland urban interface and wildland urban intermix as defined in National Fire Protection Association Standard 1143. The current population of Hailey is 7,500 covering 5.5 square miles as reported by Assistant Chief Carl Hjelm. This equates to 1,364 persons per square mile.

The department consists of 26 personnel operating out of one fire station located approximately one-half mile north of the center of the current fire response boundaries.

21 personnel have completed S-130, S-190, NFES 2236 and NFES 2088

9 personnel are “Red Card” qualified and have completed the “Pack Test”

The department has three Type I Structure Engines, one Type 2 Structure Engine, and one Type 6 Slide-in Unit, one utility unit, a command unit and an Emergency Medical Services command vehicle.

#### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Firefighters are required to be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that meets the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1977. This includes a fire resistant shirt and pants, helmet, eye protection, leather gloves, eight-inch tall lace up leather boots and a fire shelter. It is recommended that each person have a backpack for personal equipment and at least 2 quarts of drinking water. The department currently participates in the Bureau of Land Management Rural Assist Grant Program to maintain a compliant stock of PPE and a recommended ten percent overage for replacement. Chief Chapman has been informed that the City of Hailey and several other cities will not be eligible for future Rural Assistance Grants because of the lack a significant quantity of adjacent Federal Wildland Interface.

#### Wildland Urban Interface Apparatus

TYPE	UNIT ID	MODEL	Useful Life	Class A Foam	CAFS	Tank	Pump
E-1	ENGINE 1	2001 Pumper	17 years	Yes	No	1000	1250
E-1	ENGINE 3	1977 Pumper	0 years	Yes	No	500	1250
E-1	ENGINE 4	1996 Pumper	12 years	Yes	No	800	1250
E-2	ENGINE 2	2004 Pumper	20 years	Yes	No	600	500
WE-6	UNIT 7	2003 Utility		Batch	No	150	+30 gpm

#### Command Vehicles

Command	UNIT 6	4x4
Command	UNIT 8	4x4
Tactical Support	UNIT 5	4x4

**Perceived deficiencies of available resources listed in order of greatest need:**

- Improved communication capabilities and interoperability of radios
- Accurate mapping of terrain and boundaries
- Lack of sufficient time to train firefighters for all hazards.
- Inadequate planning for wildland protection in areas of impact outside city limits, and future annexation properties.
- Need aerial apparatus for firefighting in buildings greater than 30 feet in height.
- Inadequate fire station coverage within the area of response.
- Ineffective enforcement of State and Local Fireworks Laws.
- Private subdivision development with inadequate or reduced useable street widths.
- Lack of a designated Emergency Operations Center.
- Varied firefighter availability depending on the season, time or duration of an emergency.
- Need for wildland mitigation plan including building and fire code requirements for Wildland/Urban Interface areas.
- Decreasing water storage capabilities within the city during heavy irrigation.
- Lack of a method that allows federal agencies to recognize hybrid wildland training programs conducted by structural firefighting agencies that meet the performance objectives of various federal wildland firefighting programs.
- Confusion and delay in implementing any of the three mutual aid agreements with state and federal agencies. The Process needs to be streamlined and consolidated into one or two documents.

**Currently public fire education is conducted as follows:**

- Basic Fire Safety for all fourth grade students at Hailey Elementary.
- Invitational Basic Fire Safety Program to all preschools and daycare's.
- Program for "targeted audiences" annually.
- Periodic fire inspections of all businesses within the city.
- Free loan of chimney brushes.
- Free smoke detectors to needy residences.

**What would you like to see implemented regarding Public Fire Safety Education?**

- A greater time commitment and involvement by the schools in aspects of fire preventions and safety. Current time limitation is four to five hours per year.

**Recommendation for Public Education on a County-wide Level**

- A "Public Fire Safety Education Trailer" has proven to be a valuable tool in other communities in promoting fire education. The trailer can be stocked with materials, and hardware to make presentations at events where large groups congregate. Examples are:
  - Provide fire mitigation information and demonstrations in neighborhoods during the spring and summer.
  - Highlight fuel reduction demonstrations and provide information to consider home fuels modification.
  - Set up at events like gallery walks, Wagon Days, Fourth of July Parade and the Blaine County Fair to reach both the visitor and local population.

- A Public Education Trailer could also be used at Fuels Reduction Events in neighborhoods to encourage greater participation and provide a central location for coordination of neighbors, contractors and fire agency personnel.
- The trailer might be used at the base of Bald Mountain in the winter to promote solid fuel burner safety and show fuels reduction mitigation projects that were completed previously.

## **Communications**

- Interoperability of communications of all county agencies is in dire need of equipment and procedures to insure the safety of all responders and the public.
- Agencies operate on different frequencies and in the short term a radio operational plan is being devised to help overcome some deficiencies in this area. (See attachment)
- Enhanced 911 is being implemented through a phone levy within Blaine County. The monies currently available do not meet the needs of the agencies to overcome the interoperability problem between police, fire, emergency medical services and the federal agencies. This will be compounded when the federal agencies meet the federal mandate to switch to narrow band digital technology by 2005<sup>1</sup>. Rural agencies currently possess wide band equipment.
- Radio coverage of the current frequencies is deficient in many areas as noted in the mapping analysis completed by Alpine Enterprises in 2004<sup>2</sup>.
- Mobile Data Technology is not available for Hailey vehicle response to incidents, which would provide mapping, history of prior incidents and most importantly visual acknowledgement of the necessary response information such as address, situation status, water source location and any other responding units. This would greatly reduce the amount of radio traffic and insure acknowledgment of correct information.
- The current frequencies are set aside as National Fire Mutual Aid frequencies:
  - 154.265 (Red)
  - 154.280 (White)
  - 154.295 (Blue)

## **IDAHO SURVEY AND RATING BUREAU CLASSIFICATION**

The Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau assigns fire protection classes to the Hailey Fire Department for the purposes of establishing advisory insurance rates. Class 1 is the most favorable rate with Class 10 being unprotected.

In the City of Hailey:

- Class 4 applies to all properties within 1,000 feet of an approved fire hydrant. This is a favorable rating for the community but may be improved upon.

The classification results are not a comprehensive review of all aspects of a public fire protection program and should not be used for purposes other than insurance pricing. Many factors concerning life and property safety need a more complete analysis to address the community fire problem. The survey does not differentiate between properties in an urban setting versus a Wildland/Urban Interface setting. However the individual insurance companies will likely attach a surcharge to insurance premiums for homes with a solid wood product roof.

<sup>1</sup>National Wildland Coordinating Group, Meeting Minutes, Nov 14-15, 2000, Boise, ID

<sup>2</sup> Alpine Enterprises Radio Coverage Overlay dated 00/00/2004.

The rating schedule does not differentiate between communities having 9-1-1 and Enhanced 9-1-1. Enhanced-9-1-1 improves life and property protection many times over by providing quick access to the location of the caller reporting the emergency. The rating system is silent also on the issue of interoperability of communications between all agencies, which is necessary for the large-scale conflagrations. There are many other areas of fire protection not evaluated to the extent needed to give a community its life and property safety rating.

The schedule is a good indicator of many needs for fire protection. The City of Hailey survey shows that fire department improvements having the most impact on lowering insurance rate classification would be:

4. Increase the number of available personnel.
5. Training documentation.

Keep in mind the above improvements would impact insurance rates not necessarily life safety. The primary concern of a fire department is life safety. Additional improvements are sometimes needed to meet the challenges of fire in that regard. Chief Chapman has cited the need for additional fire stations and equipment to improve distribution of resources, maintain a desirable insurance rate classification, improve response time and meet the challenges of growth the city is facing.

Wildland Interface problems increase the need for specialized interface apparatus and trained personnel to combat fires in the initial stages. This helps prevent conflagrations and allows for orderly evacuation of people and the response of outside agencies. While the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau shows a shortage of "Personnel" in their survey this shortage could be even more critical in a wildland fire that threatens a subdivision.

#### **Possible considerations to reducing the deficiencies in Number of Personnel and Training Documentation of the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau Schedule**

- A concentration of apparatus and equipment is located in central Hailey where Wood River Fire Protection District and Hailey Fire Department maintain three fire stations. The two entities have different governing boards and different customers. Both suffer deficiencies in the above areas of number of personnel and training documentation.
- Relocation of fire stations and implementation of an automatic dispatch of "nearest responder" plan could reduce response times and increase safety of responders and citizens if jointly implemented in both jurisdictions and Bellevue.
- Joint training could reduce the administrative workload and reduce the number of instructors required at each training session while providing the instruction to more students.
- There is currently no suitable training facility that meets the needs of federal and local agencies to cooperatively conduct wildland fire training for firefighters and fire managers in the Blaine County area. The local and federal agencies work together in initial attack and long campaign operations which would be enhanced by regularly training together.
- All entities have considered some type of consolidation in the past. Consolidation would have a synergistic effect on the personnel count of a single entity. An additional synergistic effect could be obtained by consolidation of apparatus at properly located stations to overcome the issue of company distribution. This would likely improve future cost avoidance for all entities and improve insurance rate classification for all. It should be noted that consolidation could have an immediate positive impact on the tax rate of customers of certain entities while having a negative impact on others.

### **Fire and Building Codes and the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau**

- Fire and building codes are not a part of the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau rating consideration. Code officials have a strong desire to improve fire and building codes to address the urban interface problem. They note many problems with the allowed roof coverings, exterior siding, minimal clear zones, minimal access requirements and the shortage of enforcement resources.
- Fuel mapping is proposed as a method to establish areas for using the “Wildland/Urban Interface Code” adopted by the City of Hailey. Fuels Mapping will be provided by Alpine Enterprises.

### **Current Code Analysis**

- Current adopted codes are the International Fire and Building Codes as adopted by the City of Hailey. The adoption requires all building having a fire flow of 2,500 gallons per minute install an approved fire sprinkler system.
- Current building codes do not take into consideration the impact of the Wildland/Urban Interface problem as it relates to exterior construction and the use of solid wood products for roofing materials.
- Blaine County and the City of Hailey are designated as a “Community at Risk” from wildfire.

### **Fireworks**

- Prohibit fireworks stands outside of city limits.
- Educate fire and law enforcement personnel in the knowledge of fireworks laws.
- Consistent and vigilant enforcement of fireworks ordinances throughout the cities and county.
- All pyrotechnics displays to be by licensed operators with proper permitting.

### **Fuels Reduction**

- See mapping provided by Alpine Enterprises Inc.
- Mitigation programs, citizen use of equipment to accomplish property fuel reduction.
- Contractor assistance for community fuel reduction events.
- Reduction of structure fuels by implementation of stringent codes and enforcement.

### **Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan, City of Hailey Fire Department:**

Fire prevention and mitigation issues of greatest concern to The City of Hailey Fire Department include:

- Improve Firefighter Safety
- Develop accurate mapping for the department
- Establish fire and building codes commensurate with the Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix fire threat
- Help adapt the fire department to the City of Hailey’s growth
- Reduce fuels on private property through organizing citizen participation events
- Improved fireworks legislation
- Improved communications interoperability
- Increased time allotment for fire education in schools